Evaluation of phase II (2020–2023) of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage

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Item 8: Evaluation of phase II (2020–2023) of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage: Summary (E/ICEF/2024/5)
Reference document: E/ICEF/2024/5
The Global Programme to End Child Marriage

Goal
Empower girls and prevent child marriage; contribute to the elimination of harmful practices (SDG 5.3)

12 countries, 3 phases
Phase I: 2016-2019
Initial learning and implementation - mobilize

Phase II: 2020-2023
Expanding scalable models – increase support

Phase III: 2024-2030
National coverage – ownership for scale

Phase II: 6 Outcomes
- Intensive support to marginalized girls
- Enabling family and community environment
- Strengthened systems
- Addressing poverty drivers
- Enabling laws and policies
- Quality data and evidence

Donor partners

United Nations agencies

unicef
for every child

UNFPA
Independently assess results in Phase II (2020-2023), identify good practices and lessons learned, and inform design of phase III

12 programme countries, 4 regions, and headquarters; focus on: gender-transformative approach, principle of “leave no one behind”, catalytic effect of the programme

Joint, mixed-method
Key findings

- The programme theory of change is adapted to local contexts and policies. There is varied understanding of girls’ empowerment among implementing partners.

- The programme targeting followed the principle of “leave no one behind”, despite some subgroups of at-risk girls were not intentionally reached (disabled, married, urban…) 

- The programme achieved thematic convergence mobilizing different sectors and organizations. Geographical convergence between the two agencies at subnational level was challenging.

- Gender-transformative approach well defined and adopted across. Evidence on the status and quality of adoption is lacking.
Key findings

- The programme is having a catalytic effect, expanding the direct reach of its resources, partners and geographical areas of implementation.

- The programme triggered effective multi-sectoral strategies to strengthen institutional, community and family capacities on adolescents’ health, empowerment, protection, education and gender-based violence services, less though with the social protection sector.

- The programme has been responsive to humanitarian, fragile and crisis contexts, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, but adaptation could be more agile.
Key findings

- Evidence generation, use and dissemination has improved significantly. But there is lack of evidence on what works in different programme contexts, especially at subnational and community levels.

- There are clear efficiencies gained from the joint work of the two agencies UNICEF and UNFPA, and room for improvement at subnational level.

- The programme integrated interventions into institutions, favoring sustainability of changes. National budgets committed are seldom executed, and partners capacities are still weak.
Recommendations

1. Contextualize the global theory of change for national and subnational contexts and for specific populations.

2. Make the programme more agile and adaptive for humanitarian and other complex contexts.


4. Make strategic use of programme’s acknowledged value to accelerate the elimination of child marriage globally.
Recommendations

5. Strengthen coordination and partner capacity, mobilize resources & flexibilize use of funds

6. Generate more evidence on what works in programme contexts and utilize it

7. Integrate the programme’s work with the social protection sector

8. Elaborate sustainability plans in each country, jointly with implementing partners and counterparts